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5 node of said plurality of nodes, wherein each one of said plurality of nodes
6 comprises:
7 discovering means for discovering an alternate physical path from said first node
8 to said second node by automatically identifying nodes of said alternate
9 physical path, and
10 re-establishing means for re-establishing said virtual path by configuring a set of
11 connections between said nodes of said alternate physical path.

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 14, 23-25, 27, 31, 35, and 37 have been amended.

Applicants note that certain of the claims have been amended simply to improve clarity. In clarifying the claim language, these amendments are not intended to limit the scope of the claims. Applicants believe that no new matter has been included in the specification by the preceding amendments.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

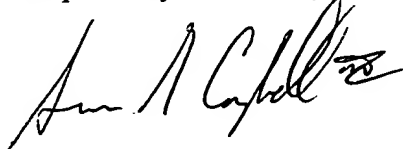
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231,

on April 8, 1999


Attorney for Applicant(s)

4/8/99
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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